

 Foster Care Transportation Plan Prep Guide

|  |
| --- |
| **Task Instructions** |
| **In this task, the LEA will submit its most updated Foster Care Transportation Plan. The submission of the LEA’s Foster Care Transportation Plan demonstrates that the LEA is prepared to implement the ESEA Foster Care School Stability Provisions, which includes the following: attestation of transporting students to their school of origin for the duration of time they are in foster care, clear procedures for the LEA to determine how it will collaborate with the child welfare agency to provide transportation to the school of origin before and after the BID process, how they will address additional costs that may arise when transporting students in foster care to their schools of origin, and posting the foster care transportation plan.**  |
| **Legal Background**  |
| **Attestation of foster care transportation for duration of time in foster care**“An LEA must collaborate with the State or local child welfare agency to develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, when in their best interest, will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the child’s time in foster care...” (Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care)**Transportation during the BID process**“An LEA must ensure that a child in foster care remains in his or her school of origin while any disputes regarding transportation costs are being resolved. (See ESEA sections 1111(g)(1)(E)(i) and 1112(c)(5)(B)(i)).” (Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care).**Transportation Plan for Children in Foster Care to their School of Origin**Public Law 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1112(c)(5)(B)(i)) ‘(i) ensure that children in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin will promptly receive transportation in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with section 475(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675(4)(A)); ...**Foster care transportation additional costs**Public Law 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1112(c)(5)(B)(ii)) “(ii) ensure that, if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, the local educational agency will provide transportation to the school of origin if— (I) the local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the local educational agency for the cost of such transportation; (II) the local educational agency agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation; or (III) the local educational agency and the local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation; ...” The LEA will ensure transportation to the school of origin should there be additional costs. “Additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin should reflect the difference between what an LEA otherwise would spend to transport a student to his or her assigned school and the cost of transporting a child in foster care to his or her school of origin.” (Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care).**Foster Care Transportation Plan Public Notice**The LEA will post their approved foster care transportation plan exported form from EMAC, along with the contact information for the foster care point of contact, on their website. |
| **List of Fields to Complete** |
| **Attestation of foster care transportation for duration of time in foster care**\*If transportation to school of origin is necessary to maintain school stability for children in foster care, this LEA, in collaboration with the child welfare agency (CWA), will ensure that said transportation will be provided for the duration of the children’s time in foster care? YES\*NAME NAME \*SIGNATURE SIGNATURE**Transportation during the BID process**\*Children in foster care must remain at their school of origin throughout the best interest determination (BID) process. Describe how the lea, in collaboration with the CWA, will provide, arrange, and fund transportation to the school of origin during the bid process. **XXXXX will promptly provide, arrange, and fund interim transportation for children in foster care as we collaborate with the Child Welfare Agency (CWA) to institute a child’s long-term transportation plan. XXXXX shall transport the student in the same manner as the rest of the students in the school district. Interim transportation should be addressed to ensure that the student in foster care experiences no delays while transportation is being worked out between the parties. If the foster child is receiving transportation through another LEA program (i.e. the child’s IEP states that they should receive transportation wherein that transportation is funded through the IDEA Act, etc.), then the student shall be transported through the stated program. If the bus route needs to be altered to meet the needs of the child, the XXXXX will transport the child after modifying the bus route. The XXXXX will ensure that children in foster care will promptly receive transportation to their school of origin in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with section 475 (4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675 (4)(A). The XXXXX will include no or low-cost transportation options. In such an event, the XXXXX will agree to pay for the cost of transportation and will pursue reimbursement from the local CWA for the cost of transportation. The XXXXX will seek a cost sharing agreement with the local CWA for the cost of transportation, to determine methods of transportation to be used, when such methods would be used, as well as procedures to ensure student safety, etc.) If public transportation is deemed necessary for use, the XXXXX (Foster Coordinator) will provide bus vouchers (federally funded) to ensure the foster child has adequate accommodations to meet their transportation needs. In the event of a dispute regarding cost our LEA and local CWA will split the costs 50/50 for transportation fees. Academic Support: Whereas after school tutoring is needed or extracurricular activities are available transportation will be arranged for students in foster care. Timely testing will be administered for 504 Plans/IEP meetings will be arranged in a timely manner to assure any student including those in foster care are receiving access to other LEA programs. Our LEA does not offer an online curriculum however, Class Dojo and Google Classroom are online platforms for communication between instructors and students/guardians for school academic support. Once a BID meeting has been finalized a revision of the necessary transportation plans will be arranged and implemented in a timely manner and discussed with the local CWA & FST.****Transportation Plan for Children in Foster Care to their School of Origin**\*Describe how the LEA, in collaboration with the CWA, will provide, arrange, and fund transportation to the school of origin after the BID process. **If transportation to school of origin is necessary to maintain school stability for children in foster care, our LEA, in collaboration with the child welfare agency (CWA), will ensure that said transportation will be provided for the duration of the children’s time in foster care. Once the BID outcome/determination has been decided, if an existing bus route exists the child(ren) will utilize the existing route within the school of origin. If transportation is outside of our LEA’s jurisdiction or transportation zone for the school of origin, our LEA will work with the child welfare agency to share the cost of such transportation. If it is deemed necessary, our LEA will provide a bus voucher(s) to the child(ren) in foster care to reach the nearest route for the school of origin, within our LEA in collaboration with the child welfare agency. Otherwise the child welfare agency will be responsible for providing transportation to the child(ren) in foster care to be within our LEA’s zoning (or) nearest bus route, Our LEA will then provide the necessary transportation to the school of origin. Upon completion of a BID meeting our LEA will make the necessary arrangements for rerouting of buses if needed and or assign a bus within the region the student is residing while in foster care. How Transportation will be provided, Arranged, and Funded. XXXXX will promptly provide, arrange, and fund interim transportation for children in foster care as we collaborate with the Child Welfare Agency (CWA) to institute a child’s long-term transportation plan. XXXXX shall transport the student in the same manner as the rest of the students in the school district. Once the BID outcome has been determined transportation will be arranged in the same expeditious manner for the chosen school of origin. Interim transportation should be addressed to ensure that the student in foster care experiences no delays while transportation is being worked out between the parties for the determined school of origin.. If the foster child is receiving transportation through another LEA program (i.e. the child’s IEP states that they should receive transportation wherein that transportation is funded through the IDEA Act, etc.), then the student shall be transported through the stated program. If the bus route needs to be altered to meet the needs of the child, the XXXXX will transport the child after modifying the bus route. The XXXXX will ensure that children in foster care will promptly receive transportation to their school of origin in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with section 475 (4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675 (4)(A). The XXXXX will include no or low-cost transportation options. In such an event, the XXXXX will agree to pay for the cost of transportation and will pursue reimbursement from the local CWA for the cost of transportation. The XXXXX will seek a cost sharing agreement with the local CWA for the cost of transportation, to determine methods of transportation to be used, when such methods would be used, as well as procedures to ensure student safety, etc.) If public transportation is deemed necessary for use, the XXXXX (Foster Coordinator) will provide bus vouchers (federally funded) to ensure the foster child has adequate accommodations to meet their transportation needs. In the event of a dispute regarding cost our LEA and local CWA will split the costs 50/50 for transportation fees. Our LEA will ensure that a child in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin receives such transportation for the duration of the time the child is in foster care. (ESEA section 1112(c)(5) (B). When a child exits foster care, our LEA will continue to prioritize the child's educational stability, consider each child's best interest on a case-by-case basis, and, when possible, make every effort to continue to ensure transportation is provided through the end of the school year, if needed, when remaining in the school of origin would be in the child's best interest. Our LEA will consider the reasonableness of costs incurred for transportation when working with the CWA or Title IV-E agency regarding transportation reimbursement if deemed necessary. Anything inside of a 20 mile radius each way from our LEA will be accommodated by a school bus transportation. Modes of transportation may change at any given time to meet the specific needs of foster care students including but not limited to a school issued van, local public bus, CWA Vehicle, mental health clinic van, and taxis will be used as a last resort when deemed necessary. Costs will be considered by our LEA to make sure we meet a cost-effective resolution to transportation along with the cooperation of our local CWA. Academic Support: Once a BID outcome has been determined if the foster child remains within a school of origin under our LEA we will continue to provide access and transportation to after school tutoring, or flex Fridays if needed, including transportation for extracurricular school activities. Timely testing will be administered for 504 Plans, EL services, & IEP meetings will be arranged in a timely manner to assure any student including those in foster care are receiving access to other LEA programs. Our LEA does not offer an online curriculum however, Class Dojo and Google Classroom are online platforms for communication between instructors and students/guardians for school academic support. Once a BID meeting has been finalized a revision of the necessary transportation plans will be arranged and implemented in a timely manner and discussed with the local CWA & FST.****Foster care transportation additional costs**\*Describe the circumstances that would trigger the LEA to seek reimbursement from the CWA. **XXXXX will promptly provide, arrange, and fund interim transportation for children in foster care as we collaborate with the Child Welfare Agency (CWA) to institute a child’s long-term transportation plan. XXXXX shall transport the student in the same manner as the rest of the students in the school district. Once a long-term transportation plan is set in place our LEA will assume the cost for the transportation within our zoning area to the school of origin. Our LEA ensures that the student(s) in foster care experiences no delays while transportation costs are being worked out between the parties. If the foster child is receiving transportation through another LEA program (i.e. the child’s IEP states that they should receive transportation wherein that transportation is funded through the IDEA Act, etc.), then the student shall be transported through the stated program. If the bus route needs to be altered to meet the needs of the child, the XXXXX will transport the child after modifying the bus route. The XXXXX will ensure that children in foster care will promptly receive transportation to their school of origin in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with section 475 (4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675 (4)(A). The XXXXX will include no or low-cost transportation options. In such an event, the XXXXX will agree to pay for the cost of transportation and will pursue reimbursement from the local CWA for the cost of transportation. The XXXXX will seek a cost sharing agreement with the local CWA for the cost of transportation, to determine methods of transportation to be used, when such methods would be used, as well as procedures to ensure student safety, etc.) If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, our LEA will provide such transportation if (1) the local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the LEA for the cost of such transp[ortation; (2) the LEA agrees to pay for the cost; of (3) the LEA and local child welfare agency agree to share the cost, (ESEA 1112(c)(5)(B)). Modes of transportation may change or be used at any given time to meet the specific needs of foster care students including but not limited to a school issued van, Local public bus, CWA Vehicle, mental health clinic van, and taxis will be used as a last resort when deemed necessary. Costs will be considered by our LEA to make sure we meet a cost-effective resolution to transportation along with the cooperation of our local CWA. If public transportation is deemed necessary for use, the XXXXX (Foster Coordinator) will provide bus vouchers (federally funded) to ensure the foster child has adequate accommodations to meet their transportation needs. In the event of a dispute regarding cost our LEA and local CWA will split the costs 50/50 for transportation fees. Our LEA will be responsible for am route, the local CWA will be responsible for pm route. Being that the location of our LEA is in a rural area, we have not fully determined many circumstances in which we would seek reimbursement from a CWA aside from the following: If the pick up destination of a foster youth is outside of a 30 mile radius in each direction within our school zoning area. Gas reimbursement will be requested by our LEA from the local CWA. Any fees required for transportation outside of our school zoning area will be the direct responsibility of the local CWA, once the foster care student is in our zoning area we will resume the cost of gas, and provide adequate transportation to the school of origin. If the limit of monthly 30 day vouchers is exhausted for non school transportation. Reimbursement or replacement of the 30 day voucher will be requested by our LEA from the local CWA. If transportation is arranged between our LEA and another LEA to meet the transportation needs of a foster care student, the shared responsibility will be arranged between the two LEA's, any impending fees not covered will be the responsibility of the local child welfare agency. If the foster care student/guardian violates our Foster Transportation contracts, especially in circumstances when special routes are issued to meet their transportation needs, gas reimbursement of 50% may be requested by our LEA from the CWA. If fees are not met within our M&O, grant funding, and in the event that our LEA M&O funding is exhausted for transportation, gas reimbursement will be requested.**\*Describe the circumstances that would trigger the LEA to solely provide transportation. **If an existing bus route exists, the foster care child(ren) will utilize the existing route within the school of origin. If a child resides within 30 miles and has transportation as a related service on his/her IEP, the LEA will provide transportation. The XXXXX will ensure that children in foster care will promptly receive transportation to their school of origin in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with section 475 (4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675 (4)(A). The XXXXX will include no or low-cost transportation options. In such an event, the XXXXX will agree to pay for the cost of transportation and will pursue reimbursement from the local CWA for the cost of transportation. The XXXXX will seek a cost sharing agreement with the local CWA for the cost of transportation, to determine methods of transportation to be used, when such methods would be used, as well as procedures to ensure student safety, etc.) Modes of transportation may change or be used at any given time to meet the specific need of foster care students including but not limited to using a school issued van, Local public bus, CWA Vehicle, youth shelter vehicle, & mental health clinic/services van; Foster/Guardian personal vehicle, and taxis will be used as a last resort when deemed necessary. Costs will be considered by our LEA to make sure we meet a cost-effective resolution to transportation along with the cooperation of our local CWA. The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) requires that school districts and child welfare agencies collaborate to develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin, when it's in the child's best interest, during the time students are in foster care. It is our LEA's legal right and responsibility to uphold our duties when it pertains to this Act.**\*Describe the circumstances that would trigger the LEA to agree to share the cost with the CWA. **If transportation is outside of our LEA's jurisdiction, our LEA will work with the child welfare agency to share the cost of such transportation. The CWA will provide transportation to the nearest bus stop within our LEA's zoning area, from there our LEA will resume the transportation responsibilities. If it is deemed necessary, our LEA will provide a bus voucher to the child(ren) in foster care to reach the nearest route for the school of origin, within our LEA in collaboration with the CWA. The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) requires that school districts and child welfare agencies collaborate to develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin, when it's in the child's best interest, during the time students are in foster care. Modes of transportation may change at any given time to meet the specific need of students including but not limited to using a school issued van, Local public bus, CWA Vehicle, & mental health clinic van; Foster/Guardian personal vehicle, and taxis will be used as a last resort when deemed necessary. Costs will be considered by our LEA to make sure we meet a cost-effective resolution to transportation along with the cooperation of our local CWA. When transportation costs are shared between our LEA and CWA, our LEA will be responsible for am route and the CWA will be responsible for pm route. When deemed necessary an alteration or switch of am/pm routes can be discussed and determined between our LEA and CWA. That is the current arrangement with our local CWA. Anything/fees inside of a 30 mile radius of our LEA's zoning area will be our financial responsibility. Anything/fees outside of a 30 mile radius of our LEA's zoning area will be the financial responsibility of the CWA. For our rural area there have not been any contracts drawn for a cost transportation agreement between our LEA and CWA. Verbal communication has been initiated, and mutual understanding of the transportation responsibilities have always been discussed at length for each individual foster case. The majority if not all fees for transportation have been covered at great lengths by our LEA for foster care students. The XXXXX will seek a cost sharing agreement with the local CWA for the cost of transportation, to determine methods of transportation to be used, when such methods would be used, as well as procedures to ensure student safety, etc.)** **Foster Care Transportation Plan Public Notice**\*Question: for the purposes of collaborating with the child welfare agency, the state education agency, and all foster care education stakeholders, the approved foster care transportation plan and the contact information for the foster care point of contact will be made publicly available on the LEA website? Yes [x] No [ ] \*DATE DATE \*NAME NAME \*SIGNATURE SIGNATURE\*Required Field |
|  |